

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00161 070947Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----070948Z 101347 /10

O 070933Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1401

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0161

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, US, KS
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER WISH TO VISIT
WASHINGTON IN EARLY MARCH

REF: SEOUL 9736

1. FOLLOWING UP ON PRIME MINISTER'S CONVERSATION WITH ME
REPORTED REFTEL, FOREIGN MINISTER PAK JANUARY 7 SUGGESTED THAT
BOTH HE AND PRIME MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON
TOGETHER IN EARLY MARCH. PAK UNDERSTANDS THAT NEW
ADMINISTRATION WILL BE VERY BUSY IN NEXT FEW MONTHS AND THAT
VISIT WILL OF NECESSITY DEPEND ON WASHINGTON CONVENIENCE, BUT
SAID EARLY MARCH DATE FIT INTO HIS AND PRIMIN PLANS.

2. ELABORATING, PAK SAID HE IS PLANNING SERIES OF CHIEFS OF
MISSION CONFERENCES DURING FEBRUARY. AFTER MEETING IN SEOUL
WITH HIS MIDDLE EASTERN AND AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN EARLY
FEBRUARY, HE PLANS LATER IN THE MONTH TO TRAVEL TO CANBERRA
TO MEET WITH HIS EAST ASIAN MISSION CHIEFS, AFTER WHICH HE
WISHES TO PROCEED DIRECTLY OR PERHAPS VIA SEOUL TO MEXICO
CITY FOR A LATE FEBRUARY MEETING WITH KOREAN AMBASSADORS
IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR HIM,
HE SAID, TO GO DIRECTLY FROM MEXICO CITY FOR THE VISIT IN
WASHINGTON, WHERE THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD JOIN HIM AFTER
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COMING DIRECTLY FROM SEOUL. PAK SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT
FOR HIM TO BE IN SEOUL FROM LATE MARCH ONWARD TO RECEIVE
SERIES OF FOREIGN VISITORS WHICH ROKG EXPECTING.

3. PAK SAID HIS CURRENT SCHEDULING REMAINED FLEXIBLE, THAT
HE HAD NOT YET CLEARED ANY OF THE ABOVE WITH THE PRESIDENT,
ADDING THAT IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF HE COULD OBTAIN AN

EARLY ANSWER, EVEN BEFORE JANUARY 20 IF POSSIBLE, SO THAT OTHER MEETINGS MENTIONED ABOVE COULD BE SET UP. I TOLD HIM I WOULD CONVEY THIS REQUEST, BUT GIVEN FACT NEW ADMINISTRATION NOT YET IN PLACE AS WELL AS OBVIOUS PRESSURES DURING FIRST DAYS, I COULD GIVE NO GUARANTEE HOW SOON AN ANSWER WOULD BE PROVIDED.

4. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION PAK INDICATED THAT HE WOULD ALSO BE TRAVELING TO JAPAN SHORTLY TO CALL ON HIS COUNTER-PARTS THERE.
SNEIDER

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